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Repeal ObamaCare's Independent Payment Advisory Board

May 15, 2013

Representative Phil Roe (R-TN) has introduced the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2013 (H.R. 351), bipartisan legislation to repeal one of ObamaCare's most egregious provisions, the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

Under ObamaCare's vast new federal bureaucracy, the **Independent Payment Advisory Board's (IPAB) 15 unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats** appointed by the President are charged with sweeping powers to reduce the growth of Medicare spending. The IPAB's proposals will be considered using "fast-track" procedures. Unless Congress adopts equivalent alternatives, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must implement the board's proposals.

Congress cannot consider any amendment to the IPAB's proposal that "does not meet the same cost-reduction goals," unless the House and three-fifths of the Senate vote to waive the requirement. Absent a waiver, Congress can only modify the type of cuts proposed, not the amount. Should Congress fail to act, the board's recommendations automatically take effect. To make matters worse, the IPAB is exempt from administrative or judicial review.

If the president does not nominate individuals to serve on the IPAB—or if the IPAB fails to recommend cuts to Medicare—the law gives the Secretary of HHS the power to make changes unilaterally. The power to affect seniors' health care should not be concentrated in one person.

In a May 9, 2013, letter to the President, House Speaker Boehner and Senate Republican Leader McConnell stated that Congress should repeal the IPAB along with the entirety of ObamaCare.

This legislation is identical to H.R. 452 from the 112th Congress, which garnered bipartisan support and was endorsed by organizations including the American Medical Association and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

To cosponsor H.R. 351 or for additional information, please contact John Martin in Rep. Roe's office at John.Martin@mail.house.gov or 5-6356.

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